

Ministry to name and shame traders who raise prices

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PUTRAJAYA: Unscrupulous traders who increase prices of goods must be exposed so that people stop patronising their shops.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said consumers have to be smart and help bring to book such traders.

He also ordered the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry to crack down on traders taking advantage of the salary increase in the public sector.

"Reports of unnecessary price increases have already started.

"Expose these irresponsible profiteers so that others will not do business with them," he said.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Shafie Apdal said they would "name and shame" the unscrupulous traders.

He said daily monitoring by enforcement officers started two weeks ago.

"The traders will not only be fined but also named openly for everyone to know."

However, Shafie believed that the problem was not widespread.

He also said that apart from the increase in the ceiling price for general purpose wheat flour, there would be no increase for other price controlled items after this, at least in the near future.

Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations adviser Prof Datuk Dr Hamdan Adnan said the authorities should monitor and ensure that wholesalers, retailers, restaurants and hawkers did not increase their prices indiscriminately.

Dr Hamdan said the percentage of the salary increment "could be better" as the current increment was only enough to maintain the current standard of living.

"The current increment is not going to enhance the civil servants' standard of living because the prices of daily necessities have gone up," he said.